

# LASCA Leaves



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

## FALL GARDEN FAIR

A STEADY STREAM of visitors flowed past the displays at the Fall Garden Fair October 27-28 at the Arboretum. They came to take advantage of the concentrated collection of exhibits, walks, lectures, and services and to get an in-depth understanding of an arboretum's diverse facets. Special displays designed by volunteers and staff in the greenhouses and the Research and Library buildings illustrated the work being done in those areas. Outdoors, the shade shelter on the main lawn provided space for booths of the different plant societies, the horticultural consultants, and the California Arboretum Foundation.



George Lewis, Descanso superintendent, was one of the members of the department staff offering advice at the Garden Fair.



The Bromeliad Society was one of the many plant societies with displays at the Garden Fair.



Palms and Polyscias 'Golden Prince' were among the plants for sale.

# Queen Anne

AS THE LAST NOTES of music floated across LASCA Lagoon near midnight on Sept. 28, the time for summing up the fifth biennial Queen Anne Frolic arrived. Scattered raindrops early in the evening did not dampen spirits among the more than 800 California Arboretum Foundation members and guests who attended. Everyone stayed on to enjoy tours of the grounds in the antique cars driven by members of the Horseless Carriage Club and the Roaring 20s Club and the decorated horse-drawn surreys, courtesy of Glendale Federal Savings and Great Western Savings and Loan. Narrations by staff and volunteers that accompanied the slide show in the Coach Barn and the boat ride around



# The Frolic

the lagoon gave party-goers a fascinating perspective on the people and events that figured in the history of the Arboretum and the San Gabriel Valley.

Then the focus of festivities moved to the tree sheltered mall by the Coach Barn where the traditional barbecued beef dinner prepared by Department Director Francis Ching was followed by dancing to the music of an orchestra sponsored by Home Savings and Loan.

The Frolic yielded almost \$19,000 net profit, a record amount that was gratifying to all the volunteers who worked so hard under the leadership of Elaine (Mrs. John) Hoffman, Frolic chairman, to make the fund raising event a success.

Photos by William Aplin



THE FROLCERS



## IMS GRANT

THE CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM Foundation has received a grant of \$25,000, the largest amount available from the Institute of Museum Sciences, an independent agency within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The Institute, in its second year of operation, supports a variety of museums including art, history, and natural history museums, general and specialized museums, aquariums, botanical gardens, planetariums, science-technology centers, and zoos.

"General operating support grants are the most valuable type a museum can receive because they are applied towards the basic services that museums provide — education, conservation, security, exhibitions, and outreach programs — while allowing local museums to establish their own priorities," said Mrs. Lee Kimche, director of IMS. "The Institute's grants are designed to help developing and established museums meet the financial pressures caused by inflation, energy shortages, and the demands made by the nearly 500 million visitors annually to the nation's 5,500 museums."

This grant will enable Arboretum

personnel to greatly expand their capability to dispense horticultural information to the general public as well as to constantly update the plant collection information.

## GRANT TO SOUTH COAST

THE ATLANTIC RICHFIELD Foundation has given a \$25,000 grant to the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation. The money will be used to build a gift shop at the garden on Palos Verdes Peninsula.

"We are delighted to receive this generous gift from Atlantic Richfield," said Mrs. Patricia Box, president of the Foundation. "A gift shop should increase our income considerably so the Foundation can give even more support to the garden."

Mrs. Box pointed out that the gift shop now operates from a makeshift area but is contributing more than \$5,000 a year to the Foundation. Most of the money comes from sales of craft items made by volunteer and craft classes from materials gathered in the garden.

The grant was presented to Mrs. Box by George Babikian, a senior Vice President of Atlantic Richfield at a reception at the garden.



At a recent South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation brunch, Mrs. Patricia Box, Foundation president (right), presented a check for \$10,000 to Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. The check will be applied against the Foundation's obligation to the County.

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOTANICAL GARDENS AND ARBORETA

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR Francis Ching has been elected president of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta for a two-year term beginning in January, 1980. The 1,000 member association, a national professional organization representing individuals and institutions in the United States and Canada, is dedicated to supporting those aspects that affect the preservation and enhancement of the environment for the benefit of man. The association further provides forums for the exchange of ideas and programs that lead to a greater range of public services by arboreta and botanical gardens.

Prior to his election as president of the association, Mr. Ching served as vice-president in 1978-79 and as a member of the board of directors during the previous three years. He was instrumental in developing a nationally recognized certification program for professional gardeners. The program leading to a North American Diploma in Horticulture is a move to standardize the training and licensing of persons planning a career in gardening at arboreta, botanic gardens, parks, and in the horticultural industry.

Other officers elected were vice-president, Dr. Fred Widmoyer, Head of the Department of Horticulture, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, N. M., and secretary-treasurer, Joseph Oppe, Director of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa. Elected to the Board of Directors were Dr. William Klein, Director of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.; and Dr. Erich Steiner, Director of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

By Jean B. Bolf

# LASCA Herb Garden



**W**HAT HERBS would interest you? Would you love to be guided through a garden by soft, fragrant scents of irises and rare lavenders? Would you be afraid to peer into a medieval herb bed where witches used to gather plants for their potions of centuries past? Or would you like to see and touch the herbs described in Shakespeare's classic writings? Whatever herbs you find interesting, they are here in the Herb Garden at the Los An-

geles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia.

Started in 1955, the garden is one of the largest in the United States with an extensive collection of herbs. This well-kept one and one-half acre area contains about 568 different types of plants arranged in 27 specialized beds. Some of the different sections are for herbs of medicinal, candy, dye, and fiber value. There is also a native California plants section, an area of sages, monardas,

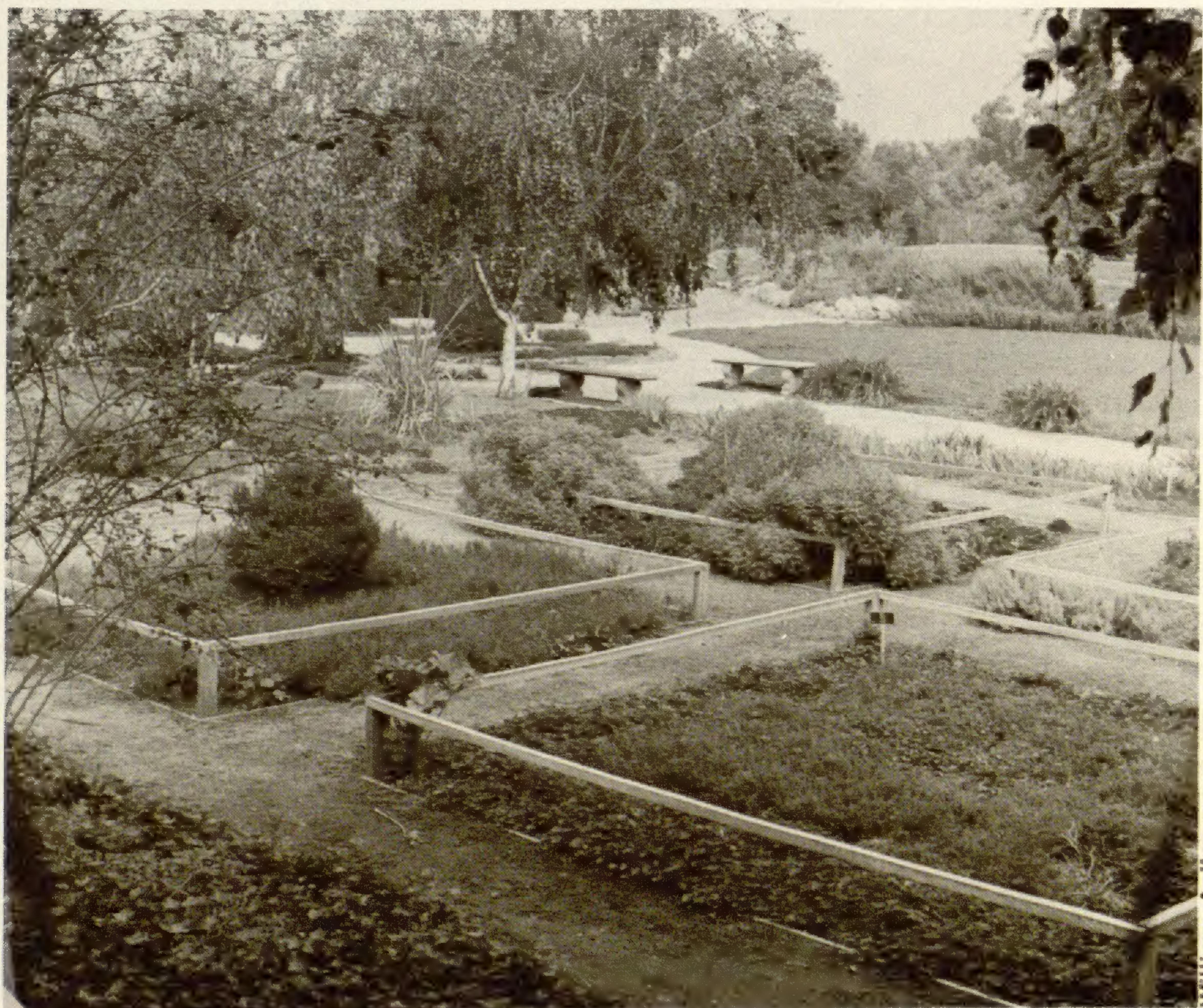
mints like spearmint and peppermint, insect repellents, economic plants like jojoba, social teas, lavenders, rosemarys, thymes, and artemesias.

The above herbs and others, defined as "any plant that may be used for pleasure, fragrance, or medicine," have played a tremendous part in the lives of all people throughout the ages. There are medicinal or "physic herbs," pot and salad herbs, culinary herbs, and aromatic herbs.

There are superstitions galore surrounding herbs. Yarrow brought to a wedding is supposed to insure seven years of love. Violets denote faithfulness, deadly nightshade stands for falsehood, and the daisy represents innocence. Herbs have been used in the sacred religious rites of the Church and also in the mysterious doings of sorcerers and necromancers. Witches used mandrake, dill, and belladonna in their cauldrons to summon evil spirits.

In the olden days most of the medicines were obtained from herbs. Heart stimulants such as digitalis, derived from foxglove, and cough remedies of licorice and horehound, were employed. In common use were snuffs made of sage, marjoram, and basil. They were thought to revive the senses and to clear the brain for deeper thinking. Tobacco was a medicinal narcotic used in surgery before it was used in smoking.

The sense of smell was not neglected either. All women, now and



*Much of the Herb Garden at the Arboretum is divided into neat plots, each containing herbs with a particular use.*

in ages past, love potpourri, a fragrant collection of dried herbs and spices. In the Arboretum Herb Garden you can walk through the fragrance section and find the names of all the herbs that would help to make a pleasing mixture for filling gift sachets or decorative bottles.

The growing of herbs is one of the oldest forms of gardening. In fact, botanical gardens as we know them evolved from the plantings of medicinal herbs called "physic gardens" during the Middle Ages.

There were many ways in which to arrange these herbs into the landscape. They were used as plants to fill crevices in walls, as ground covers, for window gardens, porch boxes, between stones on walks so that when they were trodden on they sent up a nice fragrance in the air, and as total gardens in themselves. Gardens made completely of herbs ranged from elaborate maze designs to simple, unpretentious plots of aromatic herbs for pleasure, and areas of medicinal herbs for treating illnesses.

Popular in the days of the Renaissance were the "knot gardens" laid out in intricate patterns. These were gardens of strange designs made of circles, curves, angles or straight lines, with a common companion to the knot garden being the sundial.

Entering the Arboretum Herb Garden on a Palos Verde stone path, you come upon such an old-fashioned formal knot garden of interwoven borders of oregano and lamb's ears surrounding cone-shaped bay trees, another bay tree shading curved marble benches, and a sundial set in the garden's center. From there you can browse through the Shakespeare section edged with weeping paperbark birches. Here, the plants and herbs mentioned in Shakespeare's plays are present, like carnations, chamomile, daffodil, honeysuckle, lavender, pansies, snapdragons and violets. All the old and fragrant varieties of these herbs

bring back the poetry and romance of his works.

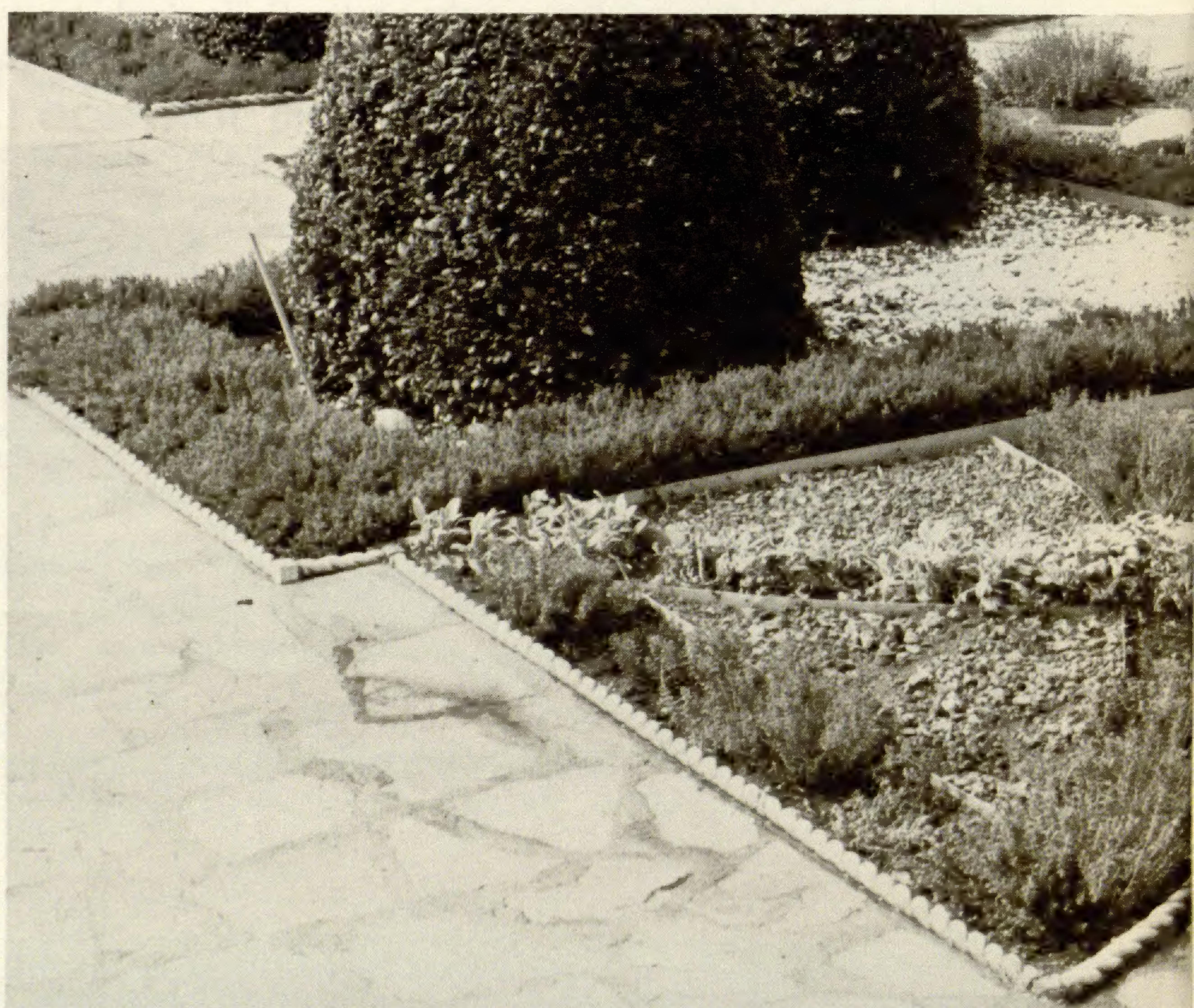
Wandering along the path between myrtle hedges, you reach the culinary herb section laid out around a little wishing well. Almost every kind of herb used in cooking is grown here. There are plants from all over the world, including Japan, Bolivia, Peru, Greece and China. Grown are oregano and basil for tomato dishes, parsley for salads and decorations, and sage and thyme for meat courses. There are also the "pot herbs," beets, turnips, carrots, and celery. They were originally used as herbs and only later developed into use as vegetables.

Along the south side of the Herb Garden is the 75 yard long Braille Terrace. Developed in 1969, this terrace was made for the benefit of the blind people who wish to walk beside the curving waist high wall

on top of which are planted very fragrant plants such as lily of the valley, mock orange, irises, and softly touchable plants such as lamb's ears and fringed wormwood. These herbs have labels with the plant names in standard printing and in Braille, and people are encouraged to touch and to smell the various plants.

Assistance for the upkeep of this garden is furnished by the dedicated Herb Society of America, Southern California Unit, volunteers who come on the first three Thursdays of each month. Plants and materials for the garden are purchased by the Herb Society volunteers through funds they raise in an annual fall herb sale.

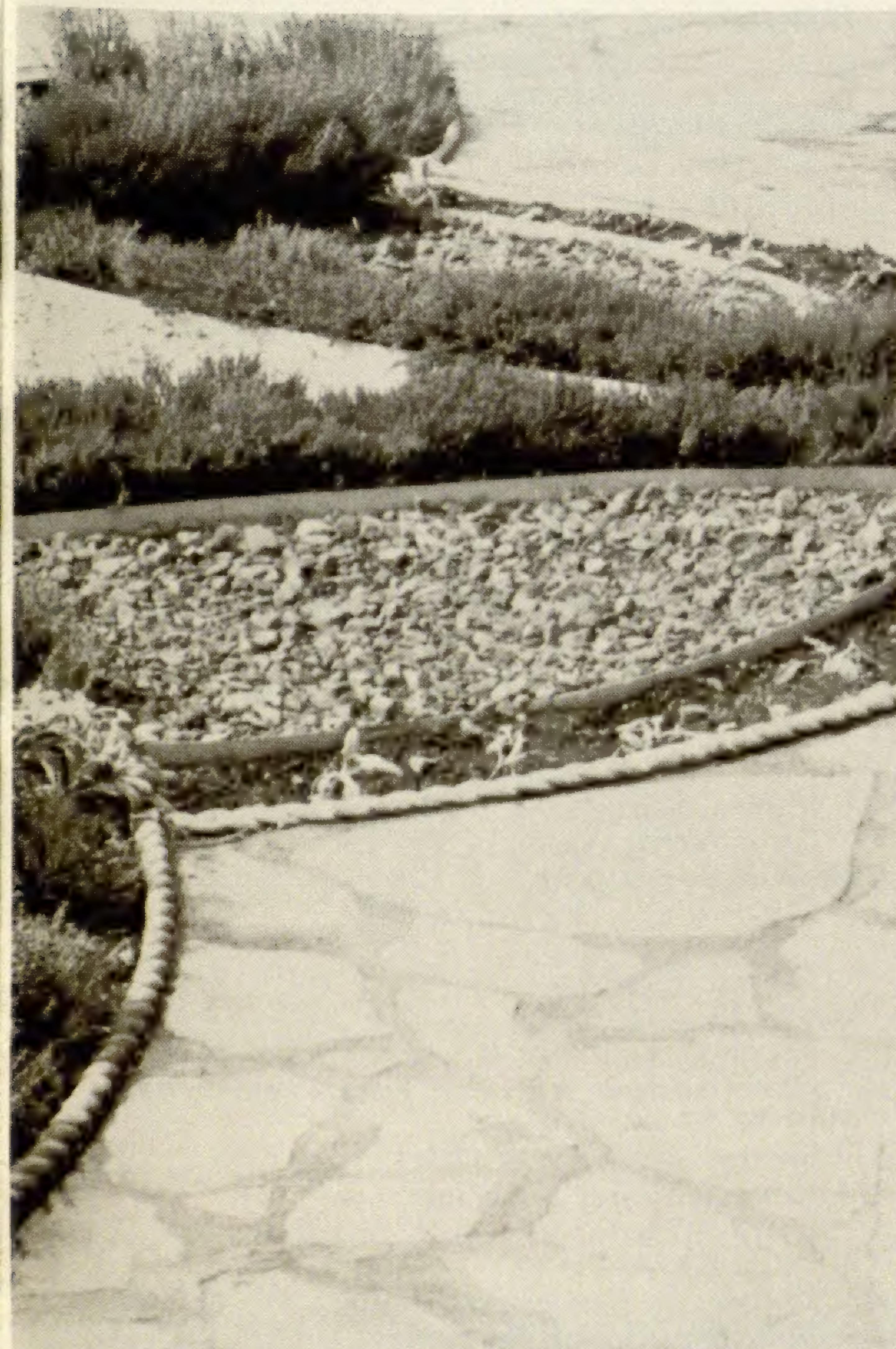
The Southern California unit is one of the sixteen units of the Herb Society in the United States and Canada. Their motto is to learn and



*Borders of low-growing herbs surround cone-shaped bay trees (Laurus nobilis) in this portion of the knot garden.*

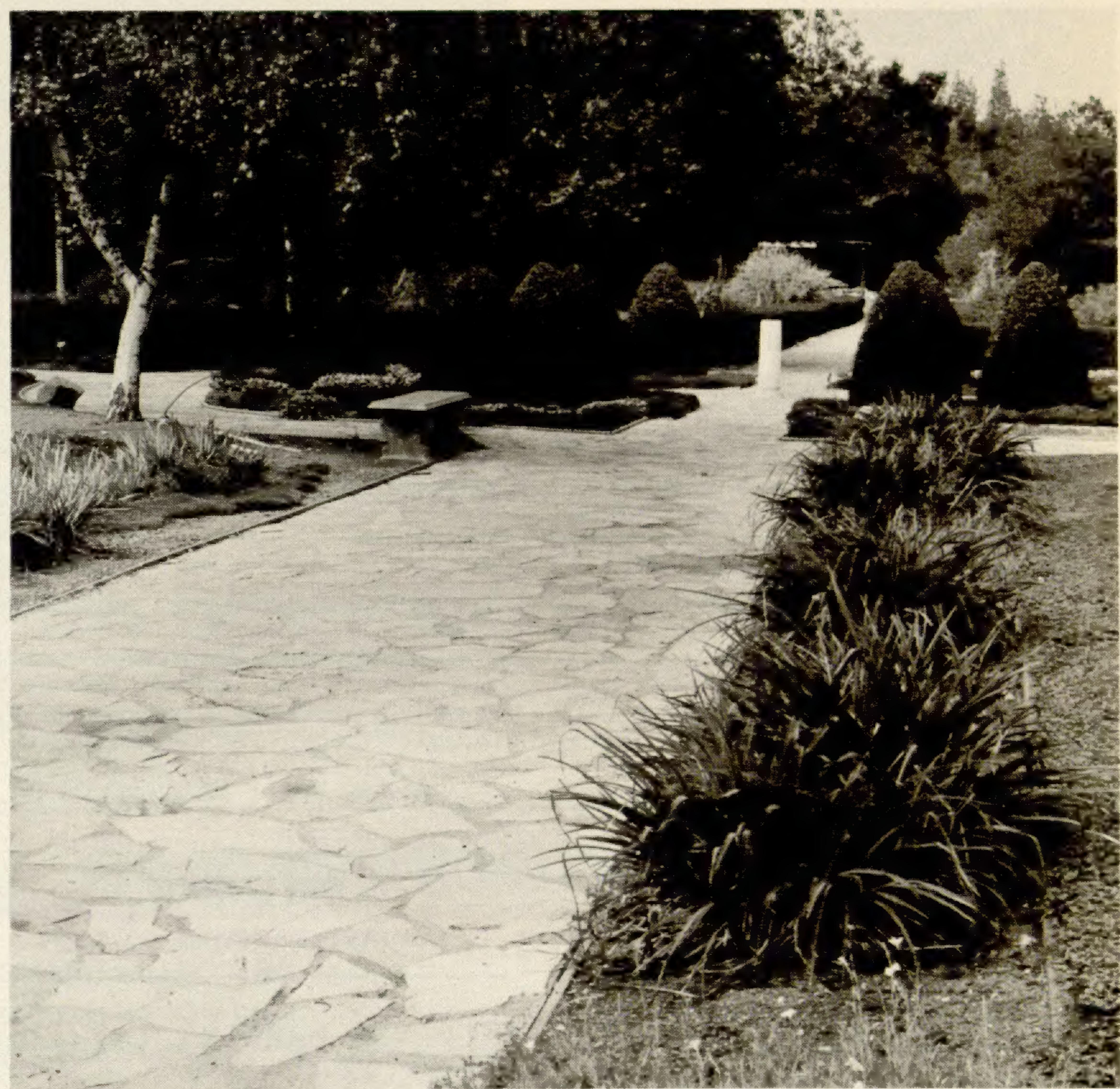
to teach. You can become a volunteer, too, and help in the gardening while gaining interesting information about the cultivation of herbs. Come some time and talk to a volunteer and learn about the culture of herbs and their uses in cookery and medicine, as well as of the folklore, superstitions and legends connected with them.

Jean Cozart, the chairman for the Southern California unit, once said, "The beauty of herbs is that there is something for everyone." This is true. Whether you are interested in culinary arts, black magic, dyes, teas, literature, perfume, rare herbs, fragrances, ground covers, medicines, native plants, or many others, there is something for everyone at the Herb Garden in the Arboretum.



LuAnn B. Munns

## Herb Garden Improvements



William Aplin

A Palos Verdes flagstone walk now leads to the new interpretive center in the background.

Two major improvements in the Herb Garden, an interpretive center and a new Palos Verdes flagstone walk, have been completed this summer with funds supplied by the Hancock Park Garden Club and the Herb Society of America Southern California Unit.

The Hancock Park Garden Club contribution resulted in the interpretive center, a redwood sunshade sheltering redwood slat benches and a 25-square-foot glass covered display case located at the western end of the Herb Garden. The display case will provide educational exhibits featuring plants and herbs that have such disparate uses as dye-stuffs and food sources and will be changed periodically by Norma Jean Lathrop, a member of the Herb Society.

The Palos Verdes flagstone walk replaces the original decomposed granite path in the center aisle and around the knot garden. Construction of the flagstone walk was done by garden staff aided by Cal Poly San Luis Obispo interns during the summer using building materials purchased with the donation from the Herb Society of America Southern California Unit.

Because of favorable climatic conditions in Southern California, the herb garden at the Arboretum remains productive even through winter. The Southern California Unit has been busy preparing the all season herb garden for the visit of the national executive board of the Herb Society of America that will meet here in February.



LuAnn B. Munns

*Cuttings from this Monarda didyma will grow in the National Herb Garden.*



William Apdin

*Displays, such as this one featuring sunflowers, enhance the appreciation of herbs and edible plants among garden visitors.*

## LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

**JANUARY 6 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Gladiolus Bulb Sale  
Southern California Gladiolus Society\*\*

**JANUARY 11 — 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

Lecture, "Uses of Native Plants by Indians of the Southwest"  
Theodore Payne Foundation

**JANUARY 26, 27 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Bonsai Show  
Baiko-en Bonsai Kenkyukai Society\*\*

**FEBRUARY 3 — 10 a.m.**

Sunday Morning Walk\*  
"Greenhouses"  
Tim Lorman, horticulturist

**FEBRUARY 16, 17 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Camellia Show  
Temple City Camellia Society

**FEBRUARY 24 — 2 p.m.**

Sunday Afternoon Talk\*  
"What's In A Name?"  
Dr. Gary Wallace, botanist

**MARCH 16 — 10 a.m.**

Sunday Morning Walk\*  
"Tallac Knoll"  
Dr. Leonid Enari, biologist

**MARCH 22, 23 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Flower Show  
Girl Scouts of America

**MARCH 23 — 2 p.m.**

Sunday Afternoon Talk\*  
"Growing and Using Annual Plants"  
Ronald Call, education specialist

**MARCH 29, 30 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Cactus and Succulent Show  
San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society\*\*

\*Presented by California Arboretum Foundation

\*\*Co-sponsored by California Arboretum Foundation

## CALENDAR

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

### DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada

**JANUARY 13 — 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Rose Pruning Demonstration  
Pacific Rose Society\*\*

**FEBRUARY 6 — 8 p.m.**

Lecture, "Folklore of Antelope Valley Wild Flowers"  
Theodore Payne Foundation

**FEBRUARY 17 — 10 a.m.**

Sunday Morning Walk\*  
"Camellia Forest"  
George Lewis, superintendent

**MARCH 1, 2 — Saturday 12 to 4:30 p.m.**

Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Camellia Show  
Southern California Camellia Council\*\*

**MARCH 15, 16 — Sat. 12 to 4:30 p.m.**

Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Daffodil Show  
Southern California Daffodil Society\*\*

**MARCH 29, 30 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Bonsai Show  
Descanso Gardens Bonsai Society\*\*

\*Presented by Descanso Gardens Guild

\*\*Co-sponsored by Descanso Gardens Guild

### SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

**JANUARY 6 — 2 p.m.**

Lecture on Bromeliad Culture  
Charles Wiley  
South Coast Bromeliad Society\*\*

**JANUARY 13 — 2 p.m.**

Rose Pruning Demonstration  
South Coast Rose Society\*\*

**JANUARY 20 — 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration\*  
Armand Sarinana, superintendent

**JANUARY 26, 27 —**

Saturday 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Camellia Show  
Southern California Camellia Society\*\*

**FEBRUARY 3 — 2 p.m.**

Lecture, "Landscaping the Home Garden"\*\*  
Don Walker

**FEBRUARY 10 — 2 p.m.**

Lecture, "Fuchsia Pruning"\*\*  
Ida Drapkin

**FEBRUARY 17 — 2 p.m.**

Lecture, "New Ways with Vegetables"\*\*  
Vera Zimmerhake

**FEBRUARY 24 — 2 p.m.**

Lecture, "Choosing the Right House Plant"\*\*  
Sheila Moore

**MARCH 1, 2 — Sat. 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Flower Show  
Costa Verde Garden Club, Inc.\*\*

**MARCH 9 — 2 p.m.**

Building and Decorating Rose Parade Floats\*  
Everett Fisch

**March 16 — 2 p.m.**

Lecture, "Color in Home and Garden"\*\*  
Christina Robeletto and Rocky Marshall

**MARCH 23 — 10 a.m.**

Sunday Morning Walk\*  
"Spring Flowering Plants"  
Edward Hartnagel, assist. superintendent

**MARCH 23 — 2 p.m.**

Lecture on Flower Arranging\*  
Five Top Flower Arrangers

\*Presented by South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation

\*\*Co-sponsored by South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation